

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for configuring a computing device coupled to a network, comprising the
5 acts of:

electronically locating a computing device coupled to a network;

10 identifying the computing device; and

configuring network parameters of the computing device based on the identification.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of electronically locating the computing
15 device comprises the act of monitoring network communications.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the act of monitoring network communications
comprises the act of discovering an address assignment for the computing device.

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4. The method of claim 2, wherein the act of monitoring network communications comprises the act of detecting an address request from the computing device.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the act of electronically locating the computing device comprises the act of responding to the address request.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the act of responding to the address request comprises the acts of verifying a desired characteristic of the computing device and assigning a network address to the computing device.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of electronically locating the computing device comprises the act of scanning an address range of the network.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the act of scanning the address range comprises the act of searching for devices at a desired network port.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein the act of scanning the address range comprises the act of searching for devices having a desired identifier.

5 10. The method of claim 7, wherein the act of scanning the address range comprises the act of searching for devices having a desired software application.

10 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of identifying the computing device comprises the act of discovering a desired device characteristic.

15 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the act of discovering the desired device characteristic comprises the act of discovering a device category.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the act of discovering the device category comprises the act of discovering a device source.

20 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the act of discovering the device source comprises the act of discovering a device manufacturer.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein the act of discovering the desired device characteristic comprises the act of discovering a device model.

5 16. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of identifying the computing device comprises the act of initiating an identification event to identify the computing device.

10 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the act of initiating an identification event comprises the act of communicating an identification signal from the computing device to a remote display via the network.

15 18. The method of claim 16, wherein the act of initiating an identification event comprises the act of communicating an identification signal from a remote interface to the computing device via the network.

20 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of configuring network parameters of the computing device comprises the act of remotely and automatically configuring the computing device using desired network parameters based on the identification of the computing device.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein the act of configuring network parameters of the computing device comprises the act of remotely interacting with computing device.

5 21. The method of claim 20, wherein the act of remotely interacting with the computing device comprises the act of configuring network addresses for the computing device.

10 22. The method of claim 20, wherein the act of remotely interacting with the computing device comprises the act of initiating a remote configuration system for the computing device.

15 23. The method of claim 22, wherein the act of initiating the remote configuration system comprises the act of transmitting a network address to the computing device based on the identification.

20 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the act of transmitting the network address comprises the act of electronically directing the computing device to a web-based device configuration system.

25. The method of claim 1, comprising the act of interacting with the computing device via a remote computing device.

5 26. The method of claim 25, comprising the act of managing network addressing via the device configuration program.

10 27. The method of claim 25, comprising the act of accessing a device configuration program via the remote computing device.

15 28. The method of claim 27, comprising the act of displaying a list of devices electronically discovered.

29. The method of claim 28, comprising the act of selecting a desired device and transmitting configuration information to the desired device via the network.

20 30. The method of claim 1, comprising remotely configuring a plurality of the computing devices that have been electronically located and identified.

31. A set of network parameters for the computing device produced by the method of claim 1.

5 32. A network server configured by the method of claim 1.

33. A method for networking a desired device, comprising the acts of:

10 electronically locating a desired device on a network; and

remotely configuring operational parameters of the desired device via the network.

15 34. The method of claim 33, wherein the act of electronically locating the desired device comprises the act of electronically discovering a network address for the desired device.

20 35. The method of claim 33, wherein the act of electronically locating the desired device comprises the act of analyzing an address request communication from the desired device.

36. The method of claim 35, wherein the act of electronically locating the desired device comprises the act of generating a response to the address request communication based on address control parameters.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the act of generating the response comprises the acts of:

verifying an authorization criteria for configuring the desired device; and

assigning a network address to the desired device having the authorization criteria verified.

38. The method of claim 33, wherein the act of electronically locating the desired device comprises the act of electronically searching the network for a desired identifier for the desired device.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein the act of electronically searching the network comprises the act of searching for devices at a desired network port.

40. The method of claim 38, wherein the act of electronically searching the network comprises the act of searching for devices having a desired software application.

5 41. The method of claim 33, wherein the act of electronically locating the desired device comprises the act of discovering a desired device identifier.

10 42. The method of claim 41, wherein the act of discovering the desired device identifier comprises the act of discovering a product identifier for the desired device.

15 43. The method of claim 33, wherein the act of remotely configuring operational parameters of the desired device comprises the act of configuring a network address for the desired device.

20 44. The method of claim 33, wherein the act of remotely configuring operational parameters of the desired device comprises the act of initiating a remote configuration system having a device database adapted to facilitate configuration of the desired device.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein the act of initiating the remote configuration system comprises the act of transmitting a network address to the desired device to facilitate communication with the remote configuration system.

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46. The method of claim 33, wherein the act of remotely configuring operational parameters of the desired device comprises the act of electronically communicating with the desired device via a remote computing system.

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47. The method of claim 46, comprising the act of executing a device configuration program via the remote computing system.

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48. A set of operational parameters for configuring the desired device produced by the method of claim 33.

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49. The method of claim 33, comprising the act of triggering an identification event to identify the desired device.

50. The method of claim 49, wherein the act of triggering the identification event comprises the act of transmitting an identification signal between the desired device and a remote interface via the network.

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51. A system of configuring a second computing device via a first computing device, wherein the first and second computing devices are communicatively coupled via a network, the system comprising:

10 a device configuration assembly accessible by the first computing device, comprising:

a device discovery assembly adapted for discovering the second computing device
on the network; and

15 a device setup assembly adapted for initiating configuration of the second
computing device via the network.

52. The system of claim 51, wherein the first computing device comprises a display and an input device.

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53. The system of claim 51, wherein the second computing device comprises a network device.

5 54. The system of claim 53, wherein the network device comprises a cache server.

55. The system of claim 53, wherein the network device comprises a file server.

10 56. The system of claim 53, wherein the network device comprises an application server.

15 57. The system of claim 53, wherein the network device comprises a web server.

58. The system of claim 51, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

20 59. The system of claim 51, wherein the device configuration assembly is disposed on the first computing device.

60. The system of claim 51, wherein the device discovery assembly comprises a network addressing assembly.

5 61. The system of claim 60, wherein the network addressing assembly comprises a network address management server coupled to the network.

10 62. The system of claim 60, wherein the network addressing assembly comprises a network addressing module adapted for internally managing network addresses of devices coupled to the network.

15 63. The system of claim 60, wherein the network addressing assembly comprises a dynamic address assignment module.

20 64. The system of claim 51, wherein the device configuration assembly comprises a user interface.

65. The system of claim 51, wherein the device discovery assembly comprises an address request monitor adapted to discover an address request from the second computing device.

5 66. The system of claim 65, wherein the device discovery assembly comprises an address assignment module adapted to assign a network address to the second computing device in response to the address request.

10 67. The system of claim 51, wherein the device discovery assembly comprises an address assignment monitor adapted to discover an address assignment to the second computing device.

15 68. The system of claim 51, wherein the device discovery assembly comprises a device identification module adapted to discover device information of the second computing device and to identify the second computing device based on the device information.

20 69. The system of claim 51, wherein the device discovery assembly comprises a device locator module adapted for communicating an identification signal between the device locator module and an identification assembly coupled to the second computing device.

70. The system of claim 51, wherein the device discovery assembly comprises a device search module adapted to search the network for the second computing device based on desired parameters.

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71. The system of claim 70, wherein the desired parameters comprise a desired network address range.

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72. The system of claim 70, wherein the desired parameters comprise a desired network port.

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73. The system of claim 70, wherein the desired parameters comprise a desired software application.

74. The system of claim 73, wherein the desired software application comprises a device management utility disposed on the second computing device.

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75. The system of claim 51, wherein the device setup assembly comprises a device configuration module adapted to configure operational parameters of the second computing device.

5 76. The system of claim 75, where the device configuration module comprises a remote configuration module coupled to the network, the remote configuration module comprising device specifications.

10 77. The system of claim 51, wherein the device discovery assembly comprises means for discovering the second computing device.

15 78. The system of claim 51, wherein the device setup assembly comprises means for configuring the second computing device.

79. A system for remotely configuring a networked computing device, comprising:

20 a network analysis module adapted to determine a network address of a desired device coupled to a network;

a device identification module adapted to identify the desired device based on desired parameters; and

a device configuration module adapted to configure the desired device via the network.

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80. The system of claim 79, wherein the desired device comprises a network appliance.

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81. The system of claim 79, wherein the desired device comprises a web server.

82. The system of claim 79, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

83. The system of claim 79, wherein the network analysis module comprises a network analysis program disposed on a memory device and accessible by a computing device coupled to the network.

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84. The system of claim 79, wherein the network analysis module comprises a network communication monitor adapted to detect a network transmission associated with the desired device.

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85. The system of claim 79, wherein the network analysis module comprises an address assignment monitor adapted to detect an address assignment associated with the desired device.

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86. The system of claim 79, wherein the network analysis module comprises a network scanner module adapted to search an address range of the network for the desired device.

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87. The system of claim 86, wherein the network scanner module comprises search parameters comprising a desired network port.

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88. The system of claim 86, wherein the network scanner module comprises device search parameters comprising a desired software application.

89. The system of claim 79, wherein the device identification module comprises a device type identifier module adapted to discover a desired type of the desired device based on the desired parameters.

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90. The system of claim 79, wherein the device identification module comprises a device locator module adapted to identify the desired device via an identifier signal communicated between the desired device and the device locator module.

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91. The system of claim 79, comprising a network address assignment module adapted to assign the network address to the desired device.

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92. The system of claim 79, comprising a network address management server having the network analysis module.

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93. The system of claim 79, wherein the device configuration module comprises a network configuration module adapted to configure network parameters for the desired device.

94. The system of claim 79, where the network configuration module comprises a communication module adapted to initiate remote configuration of desired device.